

FORM TILL

RECPT #

Record

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

10 July 1986

UDAC 86-021

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH: Director, Intelligence Community Staff
Deputy Director, Intelligence Community Staff
Director, CCISCMS

FROM:

Chief, Unauthorized Disclosure Analysis Center

25X1

SUBJECT: Secretary of State Comment on Leaks - 10 July 86

The attached Washington Post story is provided for your information. It reflects a softer line by Secretary of State Shultz on the publication of unauthorized disclosures of classified information than that taken by the DCI. Based on their track record, it is not likely that the press will regard this as a problem for them to solve. Instead, they will probably continue to regard protecting sensitive information as the government's problem. There is little reason to expect the Secretary's conciliatory move to bring results. It does, however, give the media the opportunity to play the Secretary of State off against the Director of Central Intelligence with the implication that the Administration cannot get its act together.

25X1

Attachment: a/s

25X1

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Shultz Warns on Terrorism Coverage

Foreign Journalists Cautioned Against 'Freedom-Fighter' Portrayal

By John M. Goshko
Washington Post Staff Writer

Secretary of State George P. Shultz, declaring that terrorists are "beasts" who murder innocent people, said yesterday that journalists should not "get fascinated" with them and allow them to use the press to portray terrorism as legitimate freedom-fighting.

"You have to be careful not to encourage terrorism by publishing what [terrorists] want to be published," Shultz told a seminar of Washington-based foreign journalists that was held at the State Department.

While saying that "on the whole, the press has done a good job" in covering international terrorism, he was critical of journalists "who get fascinated by terrorists and do all sorts of things to get interviews with them."

Although Shultz did not elaborate, his remarks were a clear reference to the recent arrangement

under which Mohammed Abbas, leader of the Palestinian terrorist group that hijacked the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro last October, gave an interview to NBC News on condition that his whereabouts not be revealed.

Senior State Department officials subsequently charged that NBC's involvement was tantamount to "acting as an accomplice" to terrorism.

Shultz has been the most outspoken of President Reagan's foreign policy advisers in advocating aggressive action against international terrorism.

But, in his remarks yesterday Shultz avoided the contentious tone that some senior officials, such as Central Intelligence Agency Director William J. Casey, have taken toward media publication of what the administration regards as sensitive national security information.

"You're too good in some ways because you get to know everything," Shultz told the journalists.

"And knowing everything means that you have some special obligations and responsibilities in the interests of winning the war against terrorism"

"I don't know how to tell you to solve your problem; you're going to have to work that out yourselves," Shultz said. But, he added, it is very difficult for governments to counter terrorism when their plans are reported in advance, allowing terrorists to circumvent them, or when the press uncritically reports terrorists' statements without putting them in perspective.

Shultz cited the efforts of the Achille Lauro hijackers to portray themselves as "freedom fighters." He recalled that they murdered an elderly, handicapped American passenger, and noted that their purpose in taking hostages was to force Israel to free imprisoned members of their terrorist group.

"It is a snare and a delusion to fall for that line of reasoning," Shultz said. "The idea that they were free-

dom fighters is a bunch of baloney. They weren't advancing freedom by brutalizing the ship's passengers and killing an innocent, crippled man Among the things that one of their comrades was in jail for was deliberately murdering a 4-year-old girl. So where does that leave your root causes and freedom fighters? You can throw that in the junk pail."

"They can't just be allowed to get up and talk," he said. "It's got to be shown and brought out what they won't bring out—namely, as in the case of the Achille Lauro, the comrades they are trying to free did things like murdering 4-year-old kids These people are beasts, and we need to understand that fact."

Shultz said that as one "who has worked hard for peace in the Middle East," he considers it "a matter of outrage" to hear some people justify terrorism against Israel and moderate Arab governments as a legitimate struggle for Palestinian self-determination. He cited terrorist murders of moderate Palestinian spokesmen and asked:

"Where is that advancing the cause of peace? What are these people trying to do, if anything, other than to cause disruption and chaos?"

WASHINGTON POST
10 JULY 86
p. A-26